

Wichita Daily Eagle

PENSIONS FOR HEROINES

A BILL, BORN OF GRATITUDE TO-
WARD BRAVE, WAR TIME WOMEN.

The Ministering Angels of the Battle-
field and Hospital May Be Recom-
pensed by the Government—Examples
of Self Sacrifice and Devotion.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—At last something
like an adequate effort is to be made to
recognize and reward the women who
served country and humanity during the



THE ARMY NURSE—1862-1865.

war of the rebellion as nurses in field and
hospital. Ever since the close of the war
congress has been ingenious and munifi-
cent in granting rewards to the soldiers
who fought the battles of the Union. Now
nearly half a million soldiers and sailors,
their widows, children and dependents, are
borne on the pension rolls, and soon there
will be 150,000 more. But nothing has been
done in a general way for the noble army
of women who bound up the wounds and
fanned the fevered brows of stricken war-
riors. Indeed it is only within the past
few months that any one has taken the
trouble to show by the official records what
a conspicuous part woman bore in the late
war. Incomplete as the records are they
give us an astonishing picture of women
who served at the front. Capt. Alin-
worth, the efficient chief of the record and
pension division of the war department,
has prepared a table which shows that the
following numbers of persons were em-
ployed as nurses by the different authori-
ties mentioned:

By contract war department..... 738
As volunteers..... 64
By appointment of Miss Dix..... 171
Sisters of Charity..... 48
By sanitary commission..... 2
By Christian commission..... 2
By order surgeon general..... 16
By authority undetermined..... 4,661

Total..... 6,384

But, as Capt. Alinworth adds, the records
are incomplete. Probably 10,000 women
in all, with or without regular authority
and pay, served as nurses. These are only
a part of the army of women. The records
show that in addition to the nurses there
were employed in the various armies no
fewer than 15,000 matrons, cooks, laun-
dresses and "undetermined" women. Com-
plete records, it is thought, would show
the presence at the front at various stages
of the struggle of no fewer than 40,000 wo-
men, more than three-fourths of them
white and from the north.

Of the 6,000 women who went to the
front as nurses only 300 are now on the
pension rolls, and they were placed there
in special acts of congress. Representative
Belknap, of Michigan, a member of the
committee on invalid pensions, and an ex-

pected pensioner himself, came to the
attention of the pension law. The women
who were to be reached are those who
worked in the hospitals, and who, though
perhaps then young, strong and rich, are
now, through the vicissitudes of life, old
and penniless. To the credit of congress
it should be said that no appeal for a
pension made by an army nurse of good
record has ever been denied; but it is
fair to presume that many deserving and
suffering women have been shut from the
publicly involved in an application to
congress for relief would be glad to avail
themselves of the opportunity offered in
this bill. Of the 348 nurses sent to the
front by the Sisters of Charity—and they
were all heroines—not one has ever applied
for a pension.

"The women who moved about like min-
istering angels—but very practical, cour-
ageous angels—among the camps and hospi-
tals from all walks of life. Some were
mere girls, whose romantic notions led
them to scenes of adventure. Many were
from the lower walks of life, lacking in
experience and refinement, but strong and
earnest. Not a few were the wives of sol-
diers and officers who had made their way
to the front on receipt of news that their
husbands were sick or hurt, and who, after
nursing their mates back to health, or per-
haps succumbing to the disease, had devoted
themselves to the work which they found at
their hands to do. In this way many of the
noblest and sweetest women of the war found
their way to the hospitals, and the names
of many of these unfortunate are to be
found on the records of the war depart-
ment."

"But the grand women of the war," Mr.
Belknap went on, "were the refined, cul-
tured ladies who left their children and
their homes behind them—the women who
had been accustomed to the comforts and
luxuries of life, but who had still had expe-
rience in the care of the sick of their own
families. These women were moved by the
loftiest motives of humanity and patriotism,
and they entered the work with heart and
soul, with an enthusiasm which no rebuffs
could discourage, no obstacles stay. I speak
of such women as Mrs. Fales, of Washington,
who it is believed, was the first woman in
America who performed any work directly
tending to the aid and comfort of the sol-
diers in the late war.

"I speak of such women as Clara Barton,
who was among the very first to act, and
whose reading the news from the front to
the wounded and sick soldiers quartered in
the remote chambers of this Capitol stand-
ing at the desk of the presiding officer
while doing so—made one of the notable
incidents of the early days of the war. There
was the beautiful Miss Gileon, of Boston,
whom Miss Dix refused to employ as a
nurse on account of her youthfulness, but
who nevertheless went to the front, and
stained her pretty white hands and her
person with the blood of the field and the
hospital, washed the faces, hands and feet
of sufferers, talked to them and sang to
them like a second Florence Nightingale.

Mrs. John Harris, of Philadelphia, was a
type of the women of whom I speak. She
was the wife of an eminent physician in
Philadelphia, pale, delicate, often an in-
valid for months, yet she went to the front
and performed prodigies. Mrs. Eliza C.
Porter, of Chicago, the wife of a clergy-
man, was another.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Oxygen Gas a Remedy of Remarkable Power in Pneumonia.

In a recent number of the Lancet is an
interesting account by Dr. John Chambers
of his use of oxygen gas in pneumonia. He
says that during the early months of last
year an apothecary physician in the United
States became well known as the discoverer
of a new remedy in pneumonia, and the dis-
ease, occurring chiefly in adults and men
of middle age. The symptoms in the cases
observed were due directly to the deficient
aeration of the blood. They were marked
by difficulty of breathing, together with
weakness of the heart's action. The faulty
aeration is recognized almost at its onset
by the livid hue of the lips of the ears and
the finger nails.

This condition is well known to every
physician, and as it is a token of imme-
diate danger to every patient it is impor-
tant that the best measures be taken to
overcome, if possible, the difficulty. In
pneumonia cases in young and old, pre-
sented symptoms of deficient blood aeration,
the inhalation of oxygen gas has, in Dr. Chambers' hands, proved to be a remedy of remarkable power. Un-
der the use of the life recoverer their re-
freshment, the breathing becomes easier, and the
less heart is strengthened in its action. A
supply of pure oxygen gas can be easily
obtained from the laboratory of a chemist.
It is collected in a receiver, and can be con-
veyed a considerable distance without loss
of gas. In the immediate use it is better
to fill a rubber bag from the tank than to
give the gas directly to the patient.

The rubber bag should have a capacity
of one or two gallons, and be provided with
a stopcock at one end. To this a short
tube of rubber tubing is attached, and can
be readily attached. The mouthpiece is
applied over the mouth of the patient, the
valve of the bag is turned, and the whole
or any portion of the gas in the bag can be
inhaled at a single dose. As the gas is
lighter than air it escapes from the bag
will be facilitated by holding this above
the level of the mouth, and slight pressure
upon the bag will still further assist in the
inhalation. From half a gallon to a gal-
lon of gas can be given every half hour
with perfect safety, and with great relief
to the sufferer's symptoms. Such doses
have been continued for four days and
nights, with the most satisfactory results.
Life has certainly been saved in many
cases when it has seemed that death was
inevitable.

Excess of Shade.

Houses in places otherwise unexception-
able are often so closely overhung with
trees as to be in a state of humidity, by
preventing a free circulation of air, and by
obstructing free admission of the sun's
rays. Trees growing against the walls of
houses, and shrubs in confined places near
dwellings are injurious also as favoring
humidity. At a proper distance, on the
other hand, trees are favorable to health.
On this principle, says Dr. James Clark, it
may be used to cure the inhabitants of
one house suffer from rheumatism, head-
ache, dyspepsia, nervous affections and
other consequences of living in a confined,
humid atmosphere, while their nearest
neighbors, whose houses are otherwise
situated, enjoy good health, and even how
one side of a large building, fully exposed
to the sun and to a free circulation of air,
may be healthy, while the other side, over-
looking damp, shaded courts or gardens, is
unhealthy. Humid, confined situations,
subject to great alternation of temperature
between day and night, are the most dan-
gerous to the human system. The humidity
of the air, and humidity in general is, ac-
cording to medical classics, the most injurious
to human life. Dryness, with a free circula-
tion of air, and a full exposure to the sun
are the material things to be attended to
in choosing a residence.

Metempsychosis of the Pine.

And thus I know, by memories unfurled
In raven mood and many a careless sign,
That once in time and somewhere in the world
I was a towering pine.

A Drug Now Attracting Attention.

Among a long series of remedies for skin
diseases there is perhaps none, says a writer
in the Journal of the American Medical
Association, which has made such
strides in favor and use as ichthyol, a sub-
stance prepared from the petrified remains
of prehistoric fish and sea animals, which
are found in large beds in the Tyrol. Ich-
thyol was first recommended for rheuma-
tism, and the success which attended its
use was described as astonishing.

One Thing and Another.

Surgeons in the French army have been
forbidden to use hypnosis in their prac-
tice or to experiment with it.

Ready for Graduation.

Professors to class in horology—if a
cheap watch were brought you to be re-
paired how would you begin?
Bright Student—By asking the owner
to pay in advance.—Jeweler's Weekly.

Next.

"The census enumerator is gone."
"Yes, his business is over."
"What next?"
"The mosquito with his little bill."—
Boston Courier.

His Great Failing.

"Yes, every time Blowhard gets in a
fight he overdoes himself too much."
"How's that?"
"Running."—New York World.

Dainty.

"I had my temper ruffled today," re-
marked Willie Washington to Gus de Jay.
"Gus—Gus! You are getting just too
exquisite!"—Washington Post.

Only Work for One.

Clerk—Does it take you an hour to go
around the corner?
Boy—A man dropped a quarter down a
hole in the sidewalk.
Clerk—And it took you all this time to
get it out?
Boy—Yes, sir. I had to wait till the man
went away.—Life.

In Extremis.

Mrs. Prunelle—What in the world are
you doing, Robert?
Mr. Prunelle—Since that feminine
crane for men's linen came in you've in-
dulged in it so that this is the only thing
I can find to put on.—Puck.

Pears' Soap

Fair white hands.
Bright clear complexion
Soft healthful skin.

"PEARS"—The Great English Complexion SOAP—Sold Everywhere.

WHAT SHALL WE WEAR?

FASHIONS OF THE DAY CAREFULLY
ILLUSTRATED AND DESCRIBED.

New Features That Characterize the Wash
Dresses—An Attractive Mosaic and Lace
Dress—The Skirts Are Plain, but the
Bodices Ornamented.

What are popularly termed "wash"
dresses are made for the most part with
plain skirts, the ornamentation being con-
fined principally to the bodices. A good
many have lace yokes or sleeves. As a
rule the changes are rung between orna-
mental sleeves and yokes. Some dresses
are brightened with ribbon sashes tied

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